C o n f i d e n t i a l

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Executive Committee

November, 1961

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Thursday, November 16, 1961.- Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

2.30 p.m.

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 16, 1961 - Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

2.30 p.m.

1. Opening

The Chairman, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, opened the meeting with scripture reading and prayer.

2. Attendance

Presidents:	Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri Archbishop Iakovos Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill
Officers:	Dr. Franklin Clark Fry (Chairman) Dr. Ernest A. Payne (Vice-chairman) Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft (General Secretary)
Members:	Dr. Kathleen Bliss Dr. Eugene C. Blake Father Georges Florovsky Prof. Josef Hromadka Archbishop Gunnar Hultgren Bishop L. De Mel Dr. Martin Niemoeller Rajaiah D. Paul
Consultants:	Bishop Emilianos Sir Kenneth Grubb
Staff of WCC and IMC:	Rev. Paul Abrecht Dr. Roswell Barnes Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer Dr. Leslie Cooke Dr. Norman Goodall Rev. Francis House Mr. Philippe Maury Dr. Paul Minear Bishop Lesslie Newbigin Dr. O. F. Nolde Mr. Frank Northam

The General Secretary noted that apologies for absence had been received from Metropolitan Juhanon. He reported that Dean Liston Pope had submitted his resignation from the Executive Committee, and it was agreed that a message should be sent to Dean Pope to express the regret of the Committee that he could not be present because of ill health.

3. Correction of the Minutes of the last Executive Committee

The General Secretary noted that the United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan had been omitted from the list of those churches recommended by the Executive Committee to the Central Committee for membership. It was AGREED that this church should be added to the list presented to the Central Committee.

4. Report of the General Secretary

In his report, the General Secretary noted that the Church of the Cape Province (Reformed), in South Africa had found it necessary to withdraw from the World Council, but that its Cottesloe delegates had defended the Cottesloe statement. He also stated that a meeting between the Prague Peace Conference representatives and the WCC had been postponed at their request.

Turning to the Assembly, the General Secretary reported that attendance would be good, despite the difficulties which inevitably beset many delegations. He expressed appreciation to the Indian Government for their co-operation in securing visas. Not all the delegates from East Germany were coming; for some, exit visas had been refused while others had decided not to come in view of the present difficult situation. Only 2 or 3 of those appointed by the Ecumenical Patriarch would be coming, due in part, to the complicated political situation in Turkey.

Following the General Secretary's report, there was a brief discussion. It was noted that there was a division in Germany not only between the Church and the East German government, but between different groups in the Church regarding the right interpretation of the present situation. It was possible that these issues would be raised in the Assembly. Bishop Sherrill asked about rules for distributing literature in the Assembly and the General Secretary replied that the only literature distributed is that which is produced by the WCC. Archbishop Iakovos said that the smaller number coming from the Ecumenical Patriarch was due to the difficulty of releasing members of the theological faculty and to exchange restrictions, rather than to any political pressure.

Dr. Blake requested the advice of the General Secretary and the CCIA regarding the response which he and other American church leaders should give to an invitation to attend a meeting of church leaders in Eastern Europe in January.

5. Applications for Membership

The General Secretary presented a list of 23 applications for membership from churches which had been received since the Central Committee meeting in St. Andrews. The Executive Committee had already acted on the applications of the first nine, at its last meeting. The remaining 14 had to be recommended to the Central Committee for action by the Assembly, and after discussion this was AGREED.

The General Secretary reported that there were 8 more churches which had applied, namely

St. Thomas Evangelical Church
Spanish Reformed Church
Lusitanian Church
Huria Kristen Indonesia
Korean Church in Japan
Lutheran Church Uzaramo (Tanganyika)
Independent Syrian Church (Malabar)
Armenian Catholicate of Cilicia

Five of these churches had a membership below 10,000. The papers of the remaining four were not yet complete and therefore their applications could not yet be put before the Central Committee. On the question of those with membership below 10,000, it would be up to the Policy and Reference Committee of the Assembly to decide whether special consideration should be given to any of these smaller churches Bishop Sherrill said that he hoped special attention would be given to the applications from the churches in Portugal and Spain.

Archbishop Hultgren asked what would be the status of Bishop Sundkler if the Evangelical Church of North Western Tanganyika became a member of the World Council of Churches. The General Secretary pointed out that this would give the Church of Sweden the right to appoint a delegate in the place of Bishop Sundkler.

It was further AGREED that the application of the Burma Christian Council should be commended to the Central Committee for approval as an Associated Council of the World Council of Churches.

6. Assembly Matters

Dr. Bilheimer presented a paper on procedures regarding the presentation of resolutions at the Assembly. After discussion of the need to clarify the handling of resolutions in the sections and committees and in the plenary sessions, it was AGREED to propose the following to the Central Committee:

Rule No. 11 of the Rules of Debate and Procedure of the Assembly in business session reads as follows:

> "If any member desires to propose a motion not on the agenda, he shall be permitted to have his motion read. A vote shall be immediately taken as to whether or not his motion shall be included in the agenda."

For the more logical ordering and better timing of the business of the Assembly, and in order to facilitate the collation of similar resolutions, delegates are urged to give notice to the Business Committee of any resolution they desire to have brought to the Assembly.
Ordinarily the presiding officer will not allow the reading of a resolution until it has been examined by the Business Committee, but this will not prevent a delegate from having his resolution read at an appropriate time later.

Bishop Newbigin raised a question about the form of the announcement to be made by Archbishop Iakovos in declaring the integration of the IMC and WCC at the Sunday meeting. After discussion, it was left to Dr. Fry, Dr. Bilheimer and Bishop Newbigin, with power to draft the announcement.

The official announcement concerned with voting on applications of churches for membership was slightly reworded by the Chairman and AGREED.

Dr. Bilheimer asked about rules for conduct of sections and committees and it was AGREED that the Assembly rules for business sessions should be commended to the officers of committees and sections.

Dr. Bilheimer also asked for the advice of the Executive Committee regarding the attendance of Press at Assembly sub-sections and committees. It was AGREED that press should, within the discretion of the chairmen of the sub-sections, be permitted to attend formally organized sub-sections. Concerning committees it was AGREED that the press may request the director of the Assembly press office to see if a committee would accept representatives of the press, excepting however the Nominations Committee, the Policy Reference Committee, the Business Committee, the Credentials Committee and the Message Committee.

Dr. Blake read a statement concerning the procedure by which proposed changes in World Council Programme could be brought before the Policy Reference Committee and to insure that these would be duly considered also by the Finance Committee. This was AGREED.

7. Assembly Committees

The following names were proposed to the Central Committee for the Assembly Committees on:

(a) Nominations

Prof. W. Tindal, Chairman
Dr. Christian G. Baeta
Dr. H. Harms
Rev. Isabella E. Merry
Mr. V. G. Montes
Metropolitan Myron
Mr. Charles Parlin
Bishop John Sadiq
Bishop P. L. Simoes
Dr. Edwin Tuller
Bishop A. Vantula

WCC staff assigned to this Committee are:

Dr. Visser 't Hooft, Dr. Barnes and Bishop Newbigin

(b) Credentials

Mr. Arvid Stenström (convener)
Bishop Y. A. do Amaral
Dr. Norman J. Baugher
Prof. Basil Ioannides
Rev. C. M. Kareri
Prof. A. T. Nikolainen
Rev. Keikichi Shirai

Dr. Bilheimer is the responsible staff person.

(c) Message

After a brief discussion the Committee AGREED to recommend to the Central Committee that there should be a Message from the Assembly and that provision should be made for a Message Committee.

(d) It was announced that the first meeting of the Assembly Business Committee would be held at 12.45 a.m. on Monday, November 20

8. Finance

Dr. Blake reported that it would not be possible for the Finance Committee to meet during the one day Central Committee meeting. The Finance Sub-Committee had examined all questions. He suggested that only matters requiring Executive Committee action should be reported to the Executive Committee meeting and all other matters reported directly to the Central Committee. This was AGREED.

a) Salaries

Dr. Blake reported in some detail and answered a number of questions concerning the final proposals for revised salaries and allowances for Secretarial Staff. He explained that provision for the cost was included in the suggested level of expenditure for 1962 which would be submitted to the Central Committee and that the new scheme would, if approved by the Executive Committee and the Central Committee, be put into effect from January 1, 1962.

Dr. Blake also reported that it was proposed that a modest further increase should be made in salaries for Office Staff members from January 1, 1962. He explained that, although the rise in the cost of living index was still not such as to make an increase necessary under the Personnel Standing Orders, the increase was considered necessary and justified in relation to actual cost developments in Geneva and the action of other employers.

The Executive Committee AGREED:

to approve, subject to confirmation by the Central Committee, the revised scheme for salaries and allowances for Secretarial Staff and the increased salaries for Office Staff.

b) State Children's Allowances

Dr. Blake reported that Swiss regulations had been modified and that State children's allowances would now be paid to foreigners coming to Switzerland only after the completion of one year of residence, whereas in the past they had been paid immediately after arrival in Switzerland. This matter would require further attention. In the light of the Personnel Standing Orders and the form of appointment letters used until now, it would seem essential for the World Council to pay for the first year the allowances which the State in the past had paid, at least until the question has been further examined and clarified.

c) Retirement Pension Scheme

Dr. Blake reported that the retirement pension scheme had not yet been finalised and that its completion and final approval would therefore have to be remitted to the new Central Committee. One office staff member would, however, reach compulsory retirement age at the end of 1961. It was suggested that, in this case, a pension should be paid out of current income at the rate foreseen in the planned retirement fund scheme. This would mean that the payment would not prejudice the ultimate decision concerning the retirement fund. The charge against current income would, however, be without prejudice to the possibility of reimbursement to the current operating budget from the retirement fund when finally instituted.

The Executive Committee AGREED:

to approve the above proposals concerning children's allowances and the one instance of retirement pension.

d) Properties at Ecumenical Institute

i) Transformation of Petit Bossey

Dr. Blake reported that final figures were not yet available for the final cost and would have to be reported to the new Central Committee, but that it was still anticipated that the total would be roughly as previously authorised, namely about Fr. 105,000 (about $25,000).

ii) New building for library and conference room

Dr. Blake reported that plans were now fully approved, cost estimates remained as reported in June, and provisional contracts had been made for construction to be started in the spring of 1962; these contracts could either be confirmed or be cancelled without cost before December 31, 1961. Resources available remained about Fr. 250,000, as against estimated construction costs of Fr. 508,000 and equipment costs of about Fr. 55,000, i.e. a total of about Fr. 565,000 (about $132,000).

Dr. Blake recalled the decision taken by the Central Committee in 1959, to authorise the realisation of this project and, if necessary, the borrowing of funds to finance its completion. The urgency of this need had been fully recognised.

Dr. Blake reported that while no further gifts had been secured since the June meeting, there were prospects of further possible gifts still under negotiation.

The Executive Committee AGREED:

to authorise the commencement of construction work on the new building at Bossey to house the library and conference room.

e) Headquarters Properties

Dr. Blake reported on the position regarding gifts received or promised, construction plans and estimated costs and the Executive Committee reviewed the position. This question was reported in full to the Central Committee and the details of the report are not repeated here.

9. Supplementary documents for Assembly Committees

Permission was given to the officers and staff to introduce necessary supplementary documentation for the programme of the sections and committees of the Assembly at their discretion.

10. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.